

CAUCASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA

to concentrate their forces after the successful conquest of Khiva in June. Annenkov and Merv were evacuated; the treacherous conduct of the Armenians in the allied army was not without effect on the outcome of this battle.²⁰ In October the Bolsheviks occupied Ashkhabad itself and then made a move in the direction of the Iranian province of Khorasan. In February, 1920, Bolshevik forces appeared in Krasnovodsk; by spring the whole of Transcaspia had fallen into their hands. The September invasion of Bukhara, previously referred to, completed their conquest of Turkestan. The only remaining opposition to the Bolsheviks centered in the Basmatchi bands, which under Enver's leadership grew in strength for a while. Enver was killed in battle in 1922, but the Basmatchi managed to molest the Soviet authorities as late as 1925-1926, when they were finally wiped out.

The British-Indian troops were evacuated to Iran, where for some time some of their detachments guarded the Iranian Turkestan border against possible Bolshevik inroads. The Tashkent Soviet, which became an important propaganda center for the Orient, combined with the Pan-Hindu Revolutionary Committee in Tashkent in ambitious efforts to set the flame of revolution in Iran, Afghanistan, and India. A torrent of propaganda leaflets poured into those countries, accompanied by the smuggling of arms. According to a British officer, Major Blacker, who at that time was stationed at the frontier post of Bajgiran:

During April, May, June they [the Bolsheviks] smuggled no small quantities of modern weapons, of which they had no lack. . . . But we were not allowed to stop these smugglings by force of arms, since

higher authority
 laid down that it was an internal affair of Persia. . . .
 Seldom did a week
 pass without one of my trusty henchmen bringing in a neat
 packet of, say,
 five hundred scarlet leaflets, or a couple of dozen Marxian
 pamphlets, with
 the information of the "Politicheski Oddiel" of the
 Ashkhabad Soviet. Ac-
 companying these would be a beaky Armenian or
 astrakhan-capped Tabrizi
 Turk in many-pleated frock coat, as greasy and unwashed as
 they make them,
 with an **N.C.O.'s** heel rope around his neck. As matters
 developed the
 propaganda took a pronounced anti-British turn, appealing
 to the oppressed
 multitudes of India to shake off their "capitalistic
 imperialistic" oppressors.

20 Blacker, *op. cit.*, p. 215.